***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 27 JUNE 2024 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(<https://forms.office.com/e/2zbGHzqvQ6>), and****(2) mandate-specific application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* *<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc57>)*
* *Once fully completed,* ***in English or French only****, the Word application form should be saved in Word format and submitted by email to [ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*
* *A* ***maximum of up to three optional letters of support*** *may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g., CVs, resumes or additional letters of support) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e., the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat.*
* *Applications will only be considered if both parts and* ***all sections*** *of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline. Please read the instructions in this form carefully and fill the form fully in accordance with such instructions.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Candidates eligible for* ***Working Group mandates*** *are only nationals of the States belonging to the [regional groups](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/regional-groups) for which specific vacancies have been advertised.*
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations> and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts>*
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email ([ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Komenda | **5. Year of birth: 1957** |
| **2. First (given) name:** Ryszard | **6. Place of birth: Poznan, Poland** |
| **3. Other name, if any:** | **7. Nationality (please indicate the one nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Poland** |
| **4. Gender:** Male | **8. Any other nationality:Canadian** |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200-word limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights, and good communication skills (i.e., orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e., Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).**

I am an experienced human rights lawyer with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in

International Human Rights (University of Ottawa, Canada) and a Magister Juris (University of

Gdansk, Poland). I have also studied International Human Rights Law at the University of

Bergen, Norway, as well as at human rights summer schools (Strasburg, Hague,

Charlottetown). I have intensive practical experience in human rights diplomacy working more that 20 years for United Nations human rights system. I would use both my very good knowledge of functioning of UN human rights mechanisms and in-depth practical experience of effective implementation of recommendations from human right mechanism to further advance mandate of Special Rapporteur.

I have delivered lectures on international human rights at different universities, and international human rights summer schools. I have very good communication skills and practical experience, using modern technologies and communications, speaking (on/offline) publicly at human rights international conferences and other events, both in Russian and English. In the last 25 years, I have used English for all professional communication within the UN, OSCE and other international organisations, as well as within the Canadian Government.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200-word limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles (please indicate how this was acquired). Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the work of the United Nations or other international or regional organizations in the area of human rights, and particularly in the area of the mandate (please indicate how this was acquired).**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate (please indicate years of experience).**

I have acquired a very good knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and

principles, both through formal academic education, professional development (courses), and

practical experience by working for Canadian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Canadian Red Cross,

and OHCHR/UNDP (since 1997). I have also acquired a practical knowledge of

institutional mandates related to the UN, especially to human rights mechanisms (UPR, human

rights committees, and special procedures). This was done through my professional work within UN OHCHR in Georgia, RF, and Central Asia Region. I worked with the teams of OHCHR professionals to assist in preparation of UPR, TB submissions, country visits of two SR to RF, and other SP visits to Georgia, RF, and Central Asia, and Georgia. On a continuous basis for the last 15 years, I interacted directly or through UNOHCHR colleagues with SR mandate holders. Upon SR requests, I also accompanied SR at their meetings with counterparts. I have more than 25 years of practical experience in the field of human rights. This is with the UN OHCHR; Canadian Government; Canadian Red Cross Society, and others. I worked closely with the EU, CoE, OSCE, and international NGOs. I have worked and lived in field postings such as, Sukhumi, Bratislava, Moscow, Bishkek and traveled extensively on professional duties throughout South Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Count eastern Asia, Asia–Pacific, South and North America. I have established good relations with government counterpart, national human rights institutions, civil society actors, and academia.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200-word limit)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights (please explain how such competence was acquired).**

I acquired my competences through work with Canadian International Development Agency, where I implemented peacebuilding projects. Subsequently through my job as a Head of OHCHR/DPKO Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, (UNOMIG-HROAG), where I have advanced a practical experience on international human rights instruments, international standards for protection of human rights, work with diverse partners, such as

UN, OSCE, EU, national and international civil society organisations and human rights

defenders. By my deployment as Senior Human Rights Adviser in the Russian Federation (2010-16) I further honed and advanced my human rights diplomacy skills, excelled on in-depth knowledge of functioning of UPR, human rights committees and role and special rapporteurs mandates. Furthermore, my human rights professional competence advanced through my work as a Regional Representative of UN OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia. At this post I interacted with various human rights mechanisms and worked with government and other partners to ensure the fullest implementation of recommendations for human rights mechanisms. I also worked with human rights defenders and civil society actors to promote and protect international human rights. Moreover, as a UN OHCHR Regional representative I developed a concept and then negotiated with governments and implemented extended monitoring for UN OHCR in Central Asia in relation to two county situations. This mandate included monitoring and reporting to UN HCHR on human rights violations related to Kazakhstan violent unrest in January 2022, and Uzbekistan Karakalpakstan violent unrest in June 2022 and also monitoring are reporting on Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan border armed conflicts.  Findings of the investigations were shared on confidential basis with Governments.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events in which the candidate has participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** Country visit report of SR, Contributed materials as requested by SR to Kyrgyzstan country report of SR Prof. Olivier de Schutter

**Journal/Publisher:** UNOHCHR, UN report, SR country visit, Kyrgyzstan

**Date of publication:**   May 2022

**Web link, if available:**  n⁄a

**2. Title of publication:** Kazakhstan January unrest 2022. Findings based on missions, and meetings with stakeholders.

**Journal/Publisher:** OHCHR, internal confidential report for HCHR

**Date of publication:**  May 2022

**Web link, if available:** n⁄a

**3. Title of publication:**Uzbekistan, violent unrest in June 2022. Findings based on mission and meetings with various stakeholders.

**Journal/Publisher:** UN OHCHR, internal confidential report to HCHR.

**Date of publication:** September 2022

**Web link, if available:**  n⁄a

**If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit) 1. ”UN human rights protection mechanisms, in the context of returneesfrom conflict areas”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, conference document, July 2022.Training materials for CSOs on the role of UN Special Rapporteur for FoRB, June 2022. Advancing human rights education in Central Asia Region. Conference materials, on Samarkand Global Conference on human rights education. December 2022.

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in with respect to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Global Forum on Human Rights Education, Samarkand, December 2022.

**Event organizer:** Government of Uzbekistan, OHCHR, UNDP, UN System in Uzbekistan

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:**  December, 2022.

**Web link, if available:** n⁄a

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:**International Forum

On Role of Muslim Women-Kazan, Russian Federation.

**Event organizer:**OHCHR⁄NHRI Tatarstan

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** November 2014

**Web link, if available::**https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2014/11/international-forum-muslim-women-discusses-their-human-rights

**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Stalker human rights Film Festival

**Event organizer:** Stalker Human Rights Film Festival, Moscow

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** December 2015

**Web link, if available:** http://www.stalkerfest.org/press-reliz-xxi-kinofestivalya-stalker

**If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200-word limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, such as participating in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York; travelling on two country visits per year; drafting reports according to established deadlines; organizing and participating in consultations and meetings; addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned; providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to the mandate; and engaging with a variety of stakeholders.**

**Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacity. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I would be available to effectively perform my SR duties from September 1, 2024. Having currently residence in Poland, this would allow me to easy participate in HRC Sessions in Geneva, and GA sessions in NY. I am also willing and able to travel more than two country visits a year, and other mandate related missions.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

**Individual nominations (select this option if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**Governments**

**Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights system**

**International organizations or their offices**

**Non-governmental organizations**

**National human rights institutions**

**Other human rights bodies**

**For third-party nominations, please provide the name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination** (200-word limit)**:**

**III. Motivation Letter, INCLUDING YOUR VISION FOR THE MANDATE**600-word limit. Must be typed in the space below. Cannot be sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be written by the candidates themselves, even if nominated by an other stakeholder. Please include your vision for the mandate.

I would like to propose my candidacy for position of Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus believing that I have the necessary skills, knowledge,

and practical experience to allow me, if appointed by HRC, to effectively and impartially

implement the SR mandate. I have also necessary skills and knowledge to advance human rights diplomacy in sensitive environment of current human rights situation in Belarus. Guided by HRC resolutions related to Belarus and work of UN human rights mechanisms, I will plan to implement SR mandate according to code of conduct of mandate holders, including through following:

-analyse the situation in Belarus in relation to protection of international human rights using all available sources of information, including undertaking on-site missions. In particular I plan to discharge the SR mandate through following:

-advise on the measures which should be taken by Government, international community, civil society organisations, and other partners.

-ensure early warning function of SR, and link this function to providing recommendations to HRC and other partners on practical preventive measures.

-advocate on behalf of the victims of violations through measures such as requesting urgent

action and calling upon Governments to respond to specific allegations of human rights

violations and provide possible redress.

–alert, activate, and mobilise the international and national communities, as well as the HRC to address human rights issues and to encourage cooperation with Government, civil society, private business, and inter-governmental organisations. Encourage UN to use its convening powers and create on line⁄off line, human rights dialogue platforms.

–initiate dialogue with new technology leaders on correlation artificial intelligence tools and possibility of strengthening of human rights mechanisms.

–use al possible todos and means to ensure safety and security on SR interlocutors residing in Belarus.

In particular, I will plan to monitor the situation of human rights in Belarus, to collect, examine and assess relevant information from all relevant stakeholders; give a proper place and role to civil society both, academia, national human rights institutions, private business, and bloggers, journalists; to cooperate with other relevant UN human rights mechanisms, to make recommendations, and to present a comprehensive report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly.

Taking into account the complex and sensitive global human rights situation, and ongoing

serious challenges to peace and security (and impact of COVID 19 pandemic) in many regions of the world, including current war in Ukraine and its adverse impact insecurity situation. I understand that possibilities effective and meaningful implementation of the mandate of SR may be faced with additional difficulties. Therefore, I will prepare plans for possible meetings, on line, in person in third safe countries, where CSOs and other partners can interact and travel⁄return safely, without reprisals. I will plan to use all forms of communications according to the mandate. I will plan to use the safest available digital communication technologies to have remote access and collect necessary information. I would plan and use all available tools to ensure effective communications and trust building with RF, including quiet diplomacy. Other elements will include urgent appeals, letters of allegations, and public statements. I may also use existing non-official networks and channels of communication related to human rights, such as Ombuds institutions networks, academic institutions networks, civil society networks, business associations such as Global Compact, and other channels such as international organisations. In order to collect information, I will also tap into information resources of UN Info, Human Rights Index, and individual UN entities data.

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue: Polish**

**2. Knowledge of the six official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic: no:**    If yes,

**Read:** Easily ornot easily:        
**Write:** Easily or not easily:      **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Chinese: no:**    If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily:       **Write:** Easily or not easily:      **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English: Yes**    If yes,

**Read:** Easily:       **Write:** Easily:      **Speak:** Easily:

**French:** Yes:   If yes,

**Read:** Easily:       **Write:** not easily:      **Speak:**not easily:

**Russian: Yes:**    If yes,

**Read:** Easily:       **Write:** Easily:      **Speak:** Easily :

**Spanish:** no:   If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily:       **Write:** Easily or not easily:      **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**V. EDUCATION**

**Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, academic institution and whether full- or part-time). If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in the additional cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time**: | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003;  for ongoing education, please put e.g., 2018-present): | **Degree obtained** (please indicate YES or NO): | **Place and country:** |
| Name of degree: Magister prawa⁄Master of Laws  Field of study:Law  Academic institution: University of Gdansk     Full or part-time:  full time | **1978—1983** | YES | Gdansk, Poland |
| Name of degree:post graduate studies  Field of study:international law  Academic institution: University of Bergen  Full or part-time:  fun time | 1989—1990 | YES | Bergen , Norway |
| Name of degree:  LL.M.  Field of study:  international human rights  Academic institution:   University of Ottawa  Full or part-time:  full-time | 1993—1996 | Yes | Ottawa, Canada |
| Name of degree:Certificate  Field of study: international human rights  Academic institution:University of Strasbourg  Full or part-time: part time | 1988 | Yes | Strasbourg, France |
| Name of degree:Certificate  Field of study: International law  Academic institution:  The Hague Academy of International Law  Full or part-time:part time | 1989 | YES | The Huge, The Netherlands |
| Additional: |  |  |  |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT**

**Please list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (or most recent) occupation. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in the additional cell below, separating them by a blank line. Please be as precise as possible since this section will be used for assessing the eligibility of candidates in terms of professional experience in the field of human rights.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position (brief description), full- or part-time** (please complete ALL fields): | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, e.g., 05/1999-10/2005;  for ongoing activities, please put, e.g., 08/2018-present): | **Place  and country:** |
| Name of employer:Ludvig Boltzmann Institute for fundamental and human rights  Functional title: associate expert  Main functions of position:  provide advice on international human rights, interact with other members of the team one ongoing projects  Full- or part-time:  part-time | Feb 2023/present | Vienna, Austria |
| Name of employer:  UN OHCHR  Functional title:  Regional Representative for Central Asia  Main functions of position: Advise UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on current human right situation in notes Region, manage Office of and its international and national staff, implement programs and projects, interact with UN human rights mechanisms, interact in diplomatic community and civil society  organisations  Full- or part-time:  full time | May 2016/December 2022 | Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan |
| Name of employer:UN OHCHR  Functional title:Senior Human Rights Adviser to the UN Country Team in Russian Federation  Main functions of position: Advise UN high Commissioner for Human Right son current human rights situation in Russian Federation, manage office of OHCHR , and its national staff. Manage OHCHR human rights programs and Projects, interact with national authorities, civil society, international community, and UN human rights mechanisms on implementation of recommendations and follow up.  Full- or part-time:  full time | Oct 2010/May 2016 | Moscow, Russian Federation |
| Name of employer: Canadian Red Cross Society  Functional title:Manager for South East Asia  Main functions of position: Advise leadership of CRCS on current humanitarian situation in South/East Asia, manage staff and CRCS representatives in India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Manage program and projects in countries of responsibility.  Full- or part-time:  full time | 2009/2010 | Ottawa/Canada |
| Name of employer: UN Mission to Georgia   (UNOMIG)  Functional title: Head of human rights office in Abkhazia/Georgia  Main functions of position: Advised  SRSG, DSRSG ,members of UN Mission, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on  current human right situation, managed staff of the human right s office, implemented programs and projects  Full- or part-time: full time | 2007/2009 | Sukhumi/Georgia |
| Name of employer:  Government of Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  Functional title: program officer  Main functions of position: managed international Criminal Court Campaign programme, managed human right s, and rule of law programs  Full- or part-time:   full time | 2004/2007 | Ottawa/Canada |
| Name of employer:Canadian International Development Agency  Functional title:  Program Officer  Main functions of position: Advised senior officials of the Agency, implemented programs an project related, to human rights, international developments, rule of law  Full- or part-time: | 1998/2003 | Ottawa/  Canada |
| Name of employer: UN Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)    Functional title:  Head of human right office  Main functions of position: Advised SRSG, D/SRSG, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, managed staff of try Office, implemented programs and projects.  Full- or part-time:  full time | 1997/1998 | Sukhumi/Georgia |
| Additional: |  |  |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. Does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain: NO**

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain: NO**

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility, or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain: NO**

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (please answer YES if the candidate complies; NO if the candidate does not comply, and provide an explanation)**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected. YES***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity. YES***

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g., if a candidate holds a decision-making position in a Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g., as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures that the candidate will take in this regard.**

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

**Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the Secretariat by   
email (**[ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)**).**

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.**

**Please review the application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name: Ryszard Komenda**

**Date:**    **June 26, 2024**

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1. The **online survey** is used to collect information for administrative purposes such as personal data (i.e., name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **mandate-specific application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)